

MINUTES – 2015 ANNUAL MEETING
South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust

March 6, 2015

South Union Grange Hall

5:30 – 6:30 Membership and supporter sign-in. Local agricultural agencies and nonprofits tabling and networking session. In attendance: Eight farm and food organizations and 80 members and supporters of SSCFLT.

6:30 POTLUCK DINNER

7:00 – 7:45 BUSINESS MEETING. Welcome and Introductions. SSCFLT Vice-Chair, Loretta Seppanen

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 11, 2014 Annual Meeting. APPROVED.
2. 2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP. John MacLean highlighted accomplishments from 2014. Copies of the Annual Report were available on the website and a few additional copies distributed to membership.
3. FARM LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE. Mary Ann Swain, Grant Writer and Project Development Coordinator, summarized progress on the Urban Agriculture Land for GRuB and being awarded Conservation Futures funding to acquire more farmland in northern Thurston County.
4. FINANCIAL REPORT - Members were asked to review the annual financial report available as part of the annual report on the website. Total income for the year, \$97,258 plus restricted assets of \$729,907 at Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy and in a small acquisition fund; total expenses, \$88,377; reserves as of December 31, 2014, \$41,104.
5. **ELECTION OF 2015 BOARD:** A slate of nominations was presented to the membership and was approved. Aaron Varadi, local farmer and, Jennifer Holderman, Washington Department of Ecology were elected as new Directors. Loretta Seppanen was elected for a second three-year term. Continuing members of the Board previously elected in 2013 or 2014 are Colin Barricklow, Marcie Cleaver, Ben Dryfoos-Guss, Russ Fox, Stephen Hallstrom, John MacLean, Jim McGuinn and Steve Scheuerell . Thanks were acknowledged to outgoing 2014 Board members Jodie DuBois and Pat Labine.
6. **FARMS FOREVER: A DINNER FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION:** Addie Candib described plans for the October 24, 2015 event at the Expo Center at the Thurston County Fairgrounds and called for volunteers.
7. **Membership input – members worked in groups to address these questions (with most commonly listed answers listed below the questions):**
 - Which parts of our work are most important to you?
 - Farmland preservation
 - Expand funds for preserving farmland
 - Priority for selecting land?

- o Water rights
- o Soil quality
- o Historical farmland (continuously farmed)
- o Work with the larger land-owners in county
- Which farmers should we select for our next long-term lease of farmland?
 - o Farmers with a track record and a business plan/long-term financial plan
 - o Youthful enthusiasm is good
 - o New farmers with intent to stay in community (2-5 year lease)
 - o Those who want smaller farms (10-50 acres) who are past the incubator phase, but still just starting
- What could we be doing better at or more of?
 - Related to farmers/farmland
 - Outreach to established farmers to understand easements, etc.
 - Support for farming being considered "public service" so college loan can be deferred
 - Assist with the financial know-how to broker match between retiring farmer and new farmer
 - Education for younger farmers on how to lease land and "broker" the lessee/land-owner relationship
 - Related to message/funding
 - Increase Conservation Futures funding, educate voters & policymakers
 - Name too long: I don't talk to people about SSCFLT because the name is too long to say.
 - Get message out better, and that will result in more money

8. Community Announcements:

- Greg Schundler, from Tacoma-based [Earth Economics](#) announced their work on farmland issues and suggested the value to the community of similar work done in Lancaster County PA
- Sandi Slaby shared extra copies of the version of Works in Progress with an article written by Addie
- Jill Nelson announced the opportunity to see calves at Nelson Farm every weekend in April
- Emily Dunn-Wilder invited all to participate in Earth Day (April 22 Noon to 5) at TESC including the 5 pm signing of [Real Food Commitment](#) by President Les Purce.
- Katie Rains shared that the Olympia School district recently decided to develop the land used by their GRuB-based high school program. It is an historic farm. She is asking the community to express interest in placing the needed new school building on land that is not historic farmland used by the youth at the high school for growing food.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.